

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-24, 26-29, and 54-55 are presented in this application for consideration on the merits. The limitations of claims 11 and 25 have been inserted into base claims 1 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, claims 11 and 25 have been cancelled. In addition, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to limit the claimed molecular sieve as having a characteristic of exhibiting an increase in ethylene or propylene selectivity relative to a molecular sieve which does not include the heat decomposition product of the claimed composition. Such characteristics are described in detail in the examples in this application.

In the Office Action in the parent application, the claims have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,312 (Miller) and CN 1,167,654. In making these rejections, the Examiner considered that the phrase "surface heat impregnated" was not a limitation to the claimed compositions of matter. The Examiner further considered that the claimed invention was anticipated by both references.

In this Continuation application, Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a molecular sieve which comprises a surface containing a heat decomposition product of a metal acetate, metal nitrate, metal sulfate, metal halide, or mixtures thereof. The metals of the heat decomposition product are Group IB metals, Group IIB metals, Group VIIIB metals, and mixtures thereof. The molecular sieve containing the heat decomposition product exhibits a substantial increase in ethylene or propylene selectivity relative to a molecular sieve that does not contain such the heat decomposition product.

Both the Miller and CN reference disclose the incorporation of various metals into a molecular sieve. Such metals are considered to be optional in the Miller reference, and the incorporation of the metals in the CN reference is by the use of a saline solution containing metal ions. Neither of these references, however, discloses a molecular sieve which contains a heat decomposition

product as claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, neither Miller nor the CN reference discloses or suggests Applicants' claimed invention.


As Applicants have demonstrated that the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested by the references of record, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration in the form of a Notice of Allowability is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount required to Account No. 05-1712.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2003


Edward F. Sherer
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,588

ExxonMobil Chemical Company
Law Technology
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, TX 77522-2149
(281) 834-5933 (Voice)
(281) 834-2495 (Fax)